

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

CHARLES EMANUEL PORTA, *pro se*, in his
capacity as executor for **CHARLES EMANUEL
PORTER PONA ESTATE**; and, **DEVON
DENZEL LETOURNEAU**, *pro se*, in his capacity
as executor for **DEVON DENZEL
LETOURNEAU ESTATE**,
Plaintiffs/Petitioners

v.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, et al.,
Defendants/Respondents

C.A. No. 1:20-cv-00283-JJM-LDA

MOTION TO EXTEND TIME TO RESPOND TO THE COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Defendant the State of Rhode Island (the “State” or “Defendant”) and requests an extension of time to Answer or otherwise respond to Plaintiffs Devon Letourneau (“Letourneau”) and Charles Pona’s (“Pona”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”)¹ Complaint. In support thereof, the State asserts that the instant matter appears to be related to a substantially similar, if not identical matter pending before the Court. See Letourneau, et al. v. State of Rhode Island, et al., C.A. No. 1:20-cv-00269-JJM-LDA (D.R.I. filed June 26, 2020); Pona, et al. v. State of Rhode Island, C.A. No. 1:20-cv-00283-JJM-LDA (D.R.I. filed June 26, 2020). Letourneau and Pona are Plaintiffs in both cases and the Complaints allege the same claims against the same Defendants, which consist of the State of Rhode Island and several State officers and employees in their official capacities.

While both Complaints name the same State Defendants, service has not been properly made on all State Defendants. For example, in Pona v. State, service has been made on some State Defendants,

¹ Plaintiffs are serving life sentences at the Adult Corrections Institute

improperly attempted on other State Defendants, and some State Defendants have yet to be served. See ECF 6. Likewise, in Letourneau v. State of Rhode Island, service has been improperly attempted on some State Defendants, and other State Defendants have yet to be served. See ECF 6. Nevertheless, in light of the fact that both Complaints name only the State and State officials and employees in their official capacities, and as such are the functional equivalent of claims against solely the State, *see Danny B. ex rel. Elliott v. Raimondo*, 784 F.3d 825, 834 (1st Cir. 2015), State Defendants respectfully requests the Court grant the State thirty (30) days to answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint.

WHEREFORE, the State respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter an Order granting the State's Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND,
By:

PETER F. NERONHA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

/s/Justin J. Sullivan

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a copy of the within Entry of Appearance was filed via the ECF filing system on Friday, September 25, 2020 and that it is available for viewing and downloading. I also hereby certify that I mailed a copy of the foregoing document by first class mail, postage prepaid on Friday, September 25, 2020 to:

Devon Denzel Letourneau
RI General Post Office
24 Corliss Street
Providence, RI 02904-9998

Charles Emanuel Porter Pona
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/s/Colleen Cole